

HOUSE RESOLUTION 289

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Kimber Halliburton for her sterling service to Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Kimber Halliburton is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Halliburton began her career with Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) in 1988 as a special education teacher, serving grades kindergarten through four; she has proudly served as a special education and general education classroom teacher for over thirteen years and as a school administrator with MNPS for fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Dr. Pedro Garcia, former director of MNPS, asked Kimber Halliburton to open Lockeland Design Center Elementary School in East Nashville and gave her full authority to select the staff; during Mrs. Halliburton's first year as principal, Lockeland Design Center Elementary School was recognized as the top performing elementary school in the district and ranked number one among seventy-three elementary schools as measured by students' reading and math scores on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Halliburton then served as the principal of Bellevue Middle School, which was ranked among the three highest performing middle schools and the top performing zone middle school in the district under her leadership; and

WHEREAS, after her tenure at Bellevue Middle School, Mrs. Halliburton served as principal of Harpeth Valley Elementary School; under her capable leadership and with a talented staff, the school posted significant improvements in value-added scores in reading and math, and Harpeth Valley Elementary School was designated an "Excelling School" by the district and a "Reward School" by the state for achievement results; Reward School status is reserved for the schools in the top five percent for performance; and

WHEREAS, Kimber Halliburton has also served as a Common Core Standards and TEAM Evaluation Rubrics trainer at the state and district level; she has trained many superintendents and principals across the state in best practices for evaluating school leaders with fidelity; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Kimber Halliburton was asked once again to launch a new school in Nashville; former Director of Schools Dr. Jesse Register gave Mrs. Halliburton full autonomy to hire the staff and select the technology for Waverly-Belmont Elementary School, which serves as one of two of the district's technology schools; and

WHEREAS, a partial lottery school, Waverly-Belmont currently serves over 300 students and has been well pursued by informed, serious-minded parents; during its first year, Waverly-Belmont Elementary School has offered over 150 parent tours, and it will be near capacity in year two; the school has received recognition from superintendents across the country as the school has accommodated over twenty superintendents desiring to observe best practices in use of technology and instruction; preliminary student achievement data indicates Waverly-Belmont will be among the top performing public schools in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Kimber Halliburton earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary and Special Education from Middle Tennessee State University and a master's in educational leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the Principals' Leadership Academy of Nashville (PLAN) sponsored by MNPS and Vanderbilt University, she was among the first Education Leadership Learning Exchange (ELLE) cohorts to travel to China and study the Chinese educational

system; she has also served as a mentor principal with PLAN, mentoring assistant principals who demonstrate talent to potentially lead a school as an executive principal; in the spring of 2014, she was once again fortunate to travel with Vanderbilt leaders to Guangzhou to further study Chinese educational practices; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her many accomplishments and achievements in the field of education, in 2014, Mrs. Halliburton was selected by the Tennessee Education Association as the "Distinguished Administrator of the Year," representing Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Kimber Halliburton will soon relocate to the beautiful mountainous area of East Tennessee as she begins her new journey as the first female Director of Schools for Washington County in historic Jonesborough, the oldest town in our Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Halliburton is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Kimber Halliburton serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Halliburton truly epitomizes the dedicated educator who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Kimber Halliburton for her distinguished service as an administrator and teacher with Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, commend her exceptional service to the youth of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavor as the Director of Schools for Washington County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.